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BEHIND THE SCENES.

A COLORED AUTHORESS.

In a few days G. W. Carleton & Co., of New York, will publish a book called "Behind the scenes," by Elizabeth Keckley, "formerly a slave, but more recently modiste, and friend to Mrs. Abraham Lincoln." The book contains a portrait of Mrs. Keckley, which shows us a colored woman of more than ordinary intelligence, and a decided European caste of countenance. Mrs. Keckley resides at No. 14 Carroll Place, New York. She says in her preface that her life, so full of romance, may sound like a dream, but everything she has written is strictly true. Of Mrs. Lincoln she says: "No woman was ever more traduced in the public prints of the country. . . . She may have been imprudent, but her intentions were good." At another place she says:

I am not the special champion of the widow of our lamented President; the reader of the pages which follow will find that I have written with the utmost frankness in regard to her—have exposed her faults as well as given her credit for honest motives.

Mrs. Keckley was born at Dinwiddie Court House, in Virginia. After a fearful account of her girlhood as a slave, she tells her readers how she gained her freedom. Her master not succeeding in Virginia, moved to St. Louis, where he became so poor that the servants had to be put out to work. Mrs. Keckley became a seamstress and dressmaker in St. Louis. She says:

The best ladies in St. Louis were my patrons, and when my reputation was once established I never lacked for orders. With my needle I kept bread in the mouths of seventeen persons for two years and five months.

For twelve hundred dollars she purchased her freedom, and in the spring of 1860 left St. Louis for the North. She attempted to teach her art of cutting dresses to a class of colored ladies in Baltimore, but was unsuccessful, and in six weeks went to Washington. She says:

The summer passed, winter came and I was still in Washington. Mrs. Davis, wife of Senator Jefferson Davis, came from the South in November of 1860, with her husband. Learning that Mrs. Davis wanted a *modiste*, I presented myself, and was employed by her on the recommendation of one of my patrons and her intimate friend, Mrs. Captain Hetsil. I went to the house to work, but finding that they were such large families, I took the work for Mrs. Grimsly. When I went up stairs, I found the ladies in a terrible state of exultement Mrs. Lincoln was protesting that she could not go down, for the reason that she had nothing to wear.

"Mrs. Keckley, you have disappointed me—deceived me. Why do you bring my dress at this late hour?"

"Because I have just finished it, and I thought I should be in time."

"But you are not in time, Mrs. Keckley; you have utterly disappointed me. I have no time now to dress, and, what is more, I will not dress, and go down stairs!"

"I am sorry if I have disappointed you, Mrs. Lincoln, for I intended to be in time. Will you let me dress you? I can have you ready in a few minutes."

"No, I won't be dressed. I will stay in my room. Mr. Lincoln can go down with the other ladies."

"But there is plenty of time for you to dress, Mary," joined in Mrs. Grimsly and Mrs. Edwards. "Let Mrs. Keckley assist you, and she will soon have you ready."

Thus urged, she consented. I dressed her hair, and arranged the dress on her. It fitted nicely, and she was pleased. Mr. Lincoln came in, threw himself on the sofa, laughed with Willie and little Tod, and then commenced pulling on his gloves, quoting poetry all the while.

"You seem to be in a poetical mood to-night," said his wife.

"Yes, mother, these are poetical times," was his pleasant reply. "I declare, you look charming in that dress. Mrs. Keckley has met with great success." And in fact, he proceeded to compliment the other ladies.

The death of little Willie Lincoln is written about in a very simple and affecting manner. Mrs. Keckley says:

I was worn out with watching, and was not in the room when Willie died, but was immediately sent for. I assisted in watching him and dressing him, and then laid him on the bed, when Mr. Lincoln came in. I never saw a man so bowed down with grief. He came to the bed, lifted the cover from the face of his child, gazed at it long and earnestly, murmuring, "My poor boy, he was too good for this earth. God has called him home. I know that he is much better off in Heaven, but then we loved him so. It is hard, hard to have him die!"

Great sobs choked his utterance. He buried his face in his hands, and his tall frame was convulsed with emotion. I stood at the foot of his bed, my eyes full of tears, looking at the man in silent, awe-stricken wonder. His grief unnerved him, and made him a weak, passive child. I did not dream that his rugged nature could be so moved.

Mrs. Keckley gives the following as Mr. Lincoln's opinion of Gen. Lee:

The very morning of the day on which he was assassinated, his son, Captain Robert Lincoln, came into the room with a portrait of General Lee in his hand. The President took the picture, laid it on the table before him, scanned the face thoughtfully, and said: "It is a noble face; it is the face of a noble, noble, brave man. I am glad that the war is over at last." Looking up at Robert, he continued: "Well, my son, you have returned safely from the front. The war is now closed, and we will soon live in peace with the brave men that have been fighting against us. I trust that the era of good feeling has returned, that the war, and that henceforth we shall live in peace.

Mrs. Lincoln contracted large debts of which her husband knew nothing. Her reason for it was this:

They consist chiefly of store bills. I owe altogether about twenty-seven thousand dollars, the principal portion at Stewart's in New York. You understand, Elizabeth, that Mr. Lincoln has but little idea of the expense of a woman's wardrobe. He glances at my rich dresses, and is happy in the belief that the few hundred dollars that I obtain from him supply all my wants. I must dress in costly materials. The people scrutinize every article that I wear with critical curiosity. The very fact of having grown up in the West subjects me to more searching observation. To keep up appearances I must have money—more than Mr. Lincoln can spare me. He is too honest to make a penny outside of his salary, consequently I had, and still have, no alternative but to run in debt.

A long account is given of Mr. Lincoln's tragic death, and the fearful grief of Mrs. Lincoln. It will be read with bated breath and tearful eyes by every American who peruses the book. The following extracts will be of interest to the reader:

The dress that Mr. Lincoln wore on the night of the assassination was given to Mrs. Slade, the wife of an old and faithful messenger. The cloak, stained with the President's blood, was given to me, as also was the bonnet worn on the same memorable night. Afterwards I received the comb and brush that Mr. Lincoln used during his residence at the White House. With this same comb and brush I had often combed his head. When almost ready to go down to a reception he would turn to me with a quizzical look: "Well, Madame Elizabeth, will you brush my bristles down to-night?"

"Yes, Mr. Lincoln."

Then he would take his seat in an easy chair, and sit quietly while I arranged his hair. As may be imagined, I was only too glad to accept this comb and brush from the hands of Mrs. Lincoln. The cloak, bonnet, comb and brush, the glove we attempted reception after the second inaugural, and Mr. Lincoln's overshoes, also given to me, I have since donated for the benefit of Wilberforce University, a colored college near Xenia, Ohio, destroyed by fire on the night that the President was murdered.

The book gives an account of Mrs. Lincoln's removal from the White House, and her subsequent career. It explains the matter of her offering her wardrobe for sale, and contains a large amount of other interesting matter. The style of the work is as pure and simple as the Queen's Journal, and it is none the less worthy of our admiration because it came from the hand of an humble colored woman. The spirit in which the book is written is to be commended. When every man's pen and all mouths were uttering bitter things about Mrs. Lincoln, her old colored servant is the only one who can stand before the world as her defender. *Behind the Scenes* is sure to attract a good deal of attention, and make for itself a large class of readers.

A FRENCH ROMANCE.

The Latest and Best Story of True Love Running Smoothly.

One of those little romances of which the French are so fond, has lately taken place in Paris, and is thus described in a journal: M. Robert, an immensely wealthy and highly accomplished *elegant* well known not only for his valuable collections of paintings and medieval relics, but for his rare skill as a designer and painter, hearing that one of his tenants, a Mr. B., whom he had never seen, kept one of the most extensive ateliers of fancy boxes and ornamental objects in France, called on him, with a view to make his acquaintance.

Entering the counting room, he found a good-natured, eccentric gentleman of middle age, who greeted him, and exclaimed:

"I suppose that you have also seen my advertisement, and come to apply for that situation as designer?"

For a joke, Mr. Robert replied that he had. M. B. supplied him with paints and brushes, and requested him to produce a design for a casket. M. Robert soon found that what Mr. B. really wanted was an artist to spoil strictly carry out his own ideas, and that these were pure, and formed on an extensive knowledge of art. In a short time he produced a sketch, which suited the employer to a dot—*"à point."*

M. Robert very gravely engaged himself, except good wages, and insisted on having several new articles of furniture placed in the room which was assigned to him. But when he was introduced to the work rooms and found one hundred and fifty girls, many of them young and beautiful, busily engaged in boxes, he performed that he would be required to supply them with designs and show the young ladies how they were to be carried out, the young artist began to feel as if he should have to be carried out himself—being very susceptible.

"Working for a living," said he to himself, "is not entirely devoid of attraction. Let us work."

M. Robert being an accomplished artist, delighted his employer, and he soon found a remarkable fascination in seeing his designs realized in steel, silver, enamel, or wood. He took a pleasure hitherto unknown in seeing his works in shop windows and finding them in the boudoirs of his friends. This workshop life was of course carefully concealed from "society," for a delicate employment for the artist was his landlord. But M. Robert soon found a more intense object of fascination in the daughter of M. B., a young lady who also took part in the duties of the atelier. This damsel was as remarkable for her accomplishments as for her extraordinary beauty, and M. Robert soon found that as regarded taste and culture in all matters which specially interested Mlle. Lucy he had never met with her equal. Step by step, the pair fell in love, and little by little the artist so ingratiated himself with the father that the latter, after due deliberation, consented to their union.

Previous to the marriage the old gentleman one day spoke of a dowry. "I shall give Maria fifty thousand francs," said he, with a little air of boasting. "Eh, *mon garçon*."

"And I suppose," added Mr. Robert, gravely "that I, too, must settle something on my wife. Well—I will."

This caused a peal of laughter, which was redoubled when the artist added:

"And I will settle this piece of property, house and all, with the building adjoining, on her."

But what was their amazement when M. Robert drew forth the title deeds, and said:

"You seem to forget that I am your landlord! Isn't my name Robert?"

The young lady did not faint, but papa nearly died of astonishment and joy. There was a magnificent wedding, but the bridegroom has not given up business. He declares that there is as much amusement in being useful as in amusing one's self.

Children's Fashions for May.

A novelty for boys is the "Grecian" cape, copied from that introduced this season for gentlemen, but which is found equally as useful for their young male offspring.

It is worn when the overcoat is discarded, and may form a part of it, during very cold weather, but is, at any rate, a most comfortable addition to ordinary spring clothing on the cool, damp days which are not sufficiently round to linger along until June.

The "Grecian" cape is a sort of Talma, made of light or dark cloth, with velvet rolling collar, the cloth sometimes being reversible, and showing a bright under-side. It is worn by young gentlemen of any age, commencing at about ten years, and, if carried with grace, presents a very jaunty appearance. A cap the color of the cape, ornamented with a band of velvet, the color of the collar, is very stylish—light gray and claret-color, for instance.

For very small boys, gored dresses of fine checked or striped *piqué* are almost universal. They are so easily and prettily braided in white or colors, so entirely uninjured by frequent washing, as to recommend them highly to mothers who find them the cheapest and cleanest of all dresses. Plaids have been worn quite extensively, but they are giving place to color-looking materials.

The *Marie Antoinette* scarf is made for little girls, as well as for their mammas. Most charming little suits are made of washing-silk, checked, in purple and white, green and white lilac and white, and blue and white, gored and trimmed with a number of very narrow frills of the same, bound with the contrasting color, and these frills sometimes form *brettelles* across the shoulder and descend so as to describe a panic, or sashes, upon the skirt. Otherwise, they are put on in shallow scolloped rows round the bottom of the skirt, and a little *Marie Antoinette* scarf, trimmed to match, and tied at the back.

The dresses will be made this summer for little girls, with a number of very narrow flounces, "baby" waists, and an overdress of white muslin, or lawn, or cambric, with full skirt. Over the belt a wide sash of silk or ribbon is tied behind, and the little straw hat trimmed with the same color.

New straw hats, *a la Chinois*, are the novelty for little girls. they are round; shaped something like a tin lid, with a little crown set in the top. The little "Lady Washington" hats have the crown imperial, and brim turned up at the sides.—*Demorest's Monthly.*

Disraeli as His Enemies See Him.

The London correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* thus gives one of the two extreme views regarding the character and abilities of the new English premier:—

His face is a blank. As his supporters cheer, he looks into vacuity, as some preachers do when they know every eye is upon them. A black curl lies upon his forehead, and his neckerchief is tied with studied negligence. But to all observers he appears indifferent. He neither smiles nor frowns, nor looks inquisitive. When he speaks, it is with excessive deference to the house. The only compliment he would ever bring himself to pay to Sir Robert Peel, was, that he was the greatest "member of Parliament,"—not the greatest statesman,—of his age, and this is what Disraeli is striving to become. He watches every passing humor of the house, and trims his sails. Not too far does he carry his deference, as he knows what Parliament will stand and what will nauseate it, and he can effect an independent tone with anybody. But still it is as I have said; he studies men, not principles, and his system succeeds up to now. He is undergoing its severest trial. How insufferable it is to men, of a different temper of mind and character, I can hardly describe; but could any one picture to himself the bold amount of pain in Mr. Gladstone's face as some remark of pain in Mr. Disraeli's lips, more than ordinarily artificial in its construction and hollow in its sound, or could you look underneath the hand which hastily covers Lord Cranbourne's face, and see the scorn that is resting there,—you would have some idea of the vexation and real mortification which some men, feelat what they believe to be a charlatan's reign.

The jury in the case of O'Connor vs. Tack Bros. & Co., came into Court yesterday morning, in Philadelphia, and stated their inability to agree upon a verdict, and asked to be discharged, which request was granted. It is understood the jury stood seven for acquittal and five for conviction.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

Pure and Undefiled Democracy.

The following article appears as editorial in *The La Crosse Democrat*, the most popular and widely-circulated Democratic journal in the Union—a paper that has probably a score of many subscribers in the party as *The World*, and ten times as many as *The Albany Argus*. That the sentiments expressed in the article are those of the party at large cannot be doubted, though very likely nine-tenths of them would deny that they held any such opinions. When they rush by thousands to the support of the beastly, profane, and indecent sheet which indulges daily in such writing, their denials of sympathy with the articles amount to nothing:

THE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS AWAKENING.

These *long-haired imps of suggerism* and bitter foes to true religion, the Young Men's Christian Associations (so called) who infest the State of Wisconsin, have issued a "call" for a general love-feast of the brethren, to be holden at Madison this week. The ostensible object of the pow-wow is to extend the evangelical faith into the rural districts through the efforts of lay missionaries, the brethern claiming that the people are so anxious for orthodox religion that the regular ministers cannot supply the spiritual wants of their flocks; hence the necessity that the lay brethern do *lay hold and flop round in the Lord's vineyard* until they do lay out the unbelievers. This plausible yarn may do for school marms or wheezy Puritans, but to the mind's eye of an able bodied working white man, it looketh amazingly like a huge Sabbath school lie. In the first place, *the demand for Evangelical faith is dull with a downward tendency*. Thousands of high-pressure divines are out of employment, perambulating the country, selling the "lives" of the Late Lamented, peddling patent itch Killer, and picking up a precarious subsistence in various other itinerant callings, for which their ministerial experience has well qualified them. In the next place, *who ever heard of a great missionary effort being started in the Spring, at the commencement of the busy season, when every one is hurried*, while the fall Winter months were allowed to pass by unimproved.

No, the true object of the forthcoming Devil's Auction, or Young Men's Christian Association campaign, is to put a large force of semi-clerical vagabonds in the field to beat through the country, *dead-beating it all around, sponging their victuals*, organizing prayer circles on the Ethiopian basis and setting up Grant clubs in every town, village and hamlet. *What are the basis, principles, platform, and policy of the party to be for the cause of Christ and him Crucified?* Who ever knew a broken down scalper (on the Chicago or Milwaukee Boards of Trade) who failed and retired up at 20 cents on the cent (on Wall street), paper, that was not a loud-mouth member of the Association? Who ever knew a man go through bankruptcy on false affidavits and bogus schedule, who was not a hard praying member of the Association? Where is there *a defaulting bank clerk, a thieving Railroad officer or a dishonest merchant, who is not a stockholder in the Y. M. C. A. cause?* In the Western cities their rooms are generally located near the Board of Trade, who compose most of their membership, and it is a notorious fact that the *finished, polished, heartless rascals*, are to be found elsewhere on the planet as the men, who compose these same Boards of Trade. The mongrels are using their religious undertrappers to sandwich bondholding politics in between their hymns and sermons. And it devolves on Democratic journals and speakers to warn people against the Satanic *white nigger mobs, known as Christian Associations*. Democratic Young Men's Clubs, etc. Democrats, avoid them as you would the plague. Protect your children from their insidious wiles; they are the bastard foes of your race and your God, and it is willing to wipe the foul breed from the face of the earth. Their missions, their associations, and their reign will soon terminate. White men, we must check-mate these *long-haired gamesters* on the political chess board before this year, and their power will be gone forever.

American Repudiation in Germany.

The following is a translation made for the COMMERCIAL, of a part of an article on this subject, which appeared in a Bremen journal—the *Weser Zeitung*, of March 10:

Having mentioned the several forms of repudiation recommended by prominent American politicians, and also having quoted the advice not long ago given to the bondholders by the New York *Times*, the writer proceeds:

"So, then, in America, they have also said 'to hold on to abstract principles,' when they desire contracts to be maintained and stipulated interest to be paid! This used to be called opposition to word-breaking and repudiation. And history has long ago branded it with infamy. Repudiation is indeed an ugly word, but it is the right designation of the thing, when the debtor takes advantage of his power to deprive the creditor of his property. The belief in the honor of the whole principal, or withholds from him the interest, or only a part of the interest, makes no essential difference, but a mere difference of degree. With respect to the moral judgment of the case, it doesn't matter whether the robbery be perpetrated in the form of a reduction of interest, or of a taxation of the coupons; at the most, in the first case, that a reduction of interest is more open, and therefore less contemptible.

"The argument that the bondholders ought not to be the only ones to make sacrifices, is manifestly the most pitiable attempt to hang a small moral cloak around a crying wrong. This pretence might be urged if the express promise had not beforehand been made to the money-lender, that he should be taxed, or if the borrower had not given this promise, he would not have received the loan, or would have received it only on less favorable terms. Are, besides, all the creditors of the Union 'a class of citizens?' Among them notoriously are found hundreds of thousands of non-Americans, particularly very many Germans, who have not the slightest right of the Republic, trusted it with their money. These non-Americans are absolutely under no obligation to contribute to the taxes of the Union, and if the Union is in a position to draw upon them, it is only because it once solemnly promised never to do so, and because these foreigners, relying on the promise, placed themselves in its power. What the Union has to do with their domestic creditors, it is not our affair to combat, though we think that the pledged word ought to be kept with their own citizens also, and that every responsible Government, whether the domestic creditors are really untaxed. Our belief is, that they are required to pay income tax as well as other people. Be this, however, as it may, in any case, the conduct of the loan is an insurmountable moral prohibition of the coupon tax, and at all events no part of the burdens of American citizens are to be imposed on the foreign creditors. If it is done, it is manifest robbery under the ugly form of a breach of trust. The defenders of the measure are mistaken if they believe that the holders of the bonds would quietly and in resignation submit to the robbery. Of course they could not maintain their rights by force; they would, however, raise a cry which would re-echo on both sides of the ocean, and not only the public opinion of Europe, but also the conscience of the American people themselves will say—they are right!

"Everybody remembers a public dinner which was last year held in an important Germanocity for the celebration of an American festival, and which afforded an opportunity to a distinguished American citizen, in elegant language, to protest against the shame which certain repudiation projections might bring upon his country. The echo of the honorable words heard on that occasion, has not yet died away, and in Germany at least, we cannot believe that in the school-houses and in the hall-ways of the American press appears to assume. The Germans have been often enough scolded by the English journals for their readiness to take American 'shin-plasters,' 'The Yankees will cheat you!' has been again and again the cry of the *Times* and its sympathizers. The dust of past times was rummaged in order, from the ashes of the Past, to obtain proof that the American looks upon fulfilling promises and paying debts as weakness and stupidity. The Germans caught, however, were not to be thus led astray. They distinguished between the aggregate of the great American nation and single unworthy members of the nation—who generations ago once gave the example of shameless violation of their right. They were confident that the nation itself would jealously maintain its honor—and we are convinced that they have not yet become waverling in that belief.

"In this matter, however, not alone the interests of the creditors are concerned. Something higher is at hazard, and that is the good repute of free institutions, and of self-government. How would the entire reactionary party of Europe exult, should the report reach them, that the great and glorious Republic beyond the ocean has completely 'shamboozled' its creditors! How the event would be utilized in pure scorn on the hopes of humanity in a future of grand popular freedom! What delight to catch the followers of Washington in the same evil ways as the most corrupt financial administration of the most corrupt European courts of the most corrupt times! How pointedly it would be shown that the Republicans, examined in the light, surpass former absolutism in evil. The latter absolutism, when real insolvency had come to pass, only then brought into play its partial state bankruptcy. But the United States with all their manifold difficulties are still far from this lamentable necessity. They cannot say, *non possumus*, their crime would be fraud of free will and without conscience.

"And even therefore we hold it to be impossible. However deafening may be the swell of the chorus which demands repudiation in the form of coupon tax, or reduction of interest, we regard the ignominy as impossible. In the United States it has often happened that the nation has quietly and in silence permitted the clamor of immoral agitators to continue until the agitators seemed to have almost gained their end, and then in their decisive hour—with a mighty 'No!' the nation rescued the good name of the country. This they will do again, when the repudiators can no longer be borne with."

THE Galaxy for May prints over the signature "T. W." a list of ten gentlemen, with William B. Astor at their head, who own one-tenth of the assessed property of the city of New York; together with sketches of their lives, and of the way their fortunes grew to their present proportions. One of them only comes from pure Yankee stock, and one only from the Hebrew. Four are of Germanic stock, two from the Huguenot-French, and two from the Scotch, or Scotch-Irish.

PITTSBURGH AND NEWBERN.

The Newly Proposed Railroad---Its Probable Location---Distance from Point to Point---Grade of Road---Route Shortened---To Salem---Connections with Tide Water.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

Much interest having been attached to the former communications, upon the recently proposed route for a Railroad connecting with Pittsburgh, with the central portion of the Southern States, I now propose to enhance it by making more definite, that which was previously only intimated, or spoken in general terms. The proposed route is as follows: Leaving Pittsburgh and crossing to the west bank of the Monongahela river, following this bank south into Marion county, West Virginia, crossing to the east bank, and following the east fork or Tygart Valley river, to its source in the Mingo flats of Randolph county; crossing table land Elk river grade, which runs nearly through the Cheat Mountains, or as they are here called, the Briery Mountains; passing through this gap and down a small stream, to the Greenbrier river; crossing to its Southeast bank, following this bank Southwest to Anthon's creek. From this point there is choice of routes, either taking the course of the river to its junction with the New river, and then turning Southeast up the New river to Newbern, or turning Southeast at Anthon's creek, across table-land through a gap in the Allegheny mountains, passing down the left bank of Dauphin's creek to the James river, following it to the mouth of Catawba creek, and thence up this stream to Salem, county seat of Botetourt county, a station on the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad, forty-four miles East of Newbern, and a town made familiar to the country on account of the Averill raids during the war.

The distances from point to point are nearly as follows: From Pittsburgh to McKeesport, 17 miles; to Elizabeth, 8; Monongahela City, 9; Colombia, 7; Fayette City, 5; Greenfield, 4; Califonia, 1; East and West Brownsville, 5; Fredericktown, 9; Mount Morris, 1; Rice's Landing, 3; Greensboro and Geneva, 15; Mouth of Dunkard Creek, 2; Point Marion, at the mouth of Cheat river, 4; Pennsylvania State Line, 3; Jimtown, 4; Granville, 2; Morgantown, 1; Little Indian Creek, 11; Buffalo Creek and Junction with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 9; Fairmont, 3; railroad bridge crossing to east bank, 4; Grafton and junction with Northwestern Virginia and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 12; Thornton, 5; Clarksburg, 10; Buchanan River, emptying on the west side, 7; Middle Fork, also west side, 5; Leedsville, 14; Beverly, 12; Huttonsville, 10; Warwick Creek, 14; Randolph county line, 15; across table land to head of Elk river, 6; through gap or cut in Greenbrier Mountain to opposite stream, 9; descending grade to Greenbrier river, 10; crossing to southeast bank, and running southwest to Thorny creek, 8; Napp creek, 6, (up this stream eight miles is Huntsville, county seat of Pocahontas county); Anthon's creek, 20; Monroe county line, 16, in what is called Little Levels; mouth of Anthon's creek, 20; whole distance to this point, 200 miles. From here there is choice of direction. From here to Covington and Clifton Forge, Alleghany county, 50; crossing Jackson's river, 10; Botetourt county line, 10; Salem, 15; whole distance to this point, 285 miles. From here there is choice of direction. From here to Covington and Clifton Forge, Alleghany county, 50; crossing Jackson's river, 10; Botetourt county line, 10; Salem, 15; whole distance to this point, 285 miles. From here there is choice of direction. From here to Covington and Clifton Forge, Alleghany county, 50; crossing Jackson's river, 10; Botetourt county line, 10; Salem, 15; whole distance to this point, 290

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1868.

REDUCTION IN PRICE.

Weekly Commercial.

PRESIDENTIAL YEAR!

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In response to the wish expressed by many friends, we have determined to reduce the price of the WEEKLY COMMERCIAL to *one dollar and a quarter where clubs of not less than twenty are taken*—the arrangement to last for one year only.

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Now friends, send in the names! In less than one month the Republican National Convention will have met, and the most exciting and important political campaign in our history, fairly opened. We propose to fight the battle by going straight to the people with appeals to their reason. There is no way to win a victory so surely as by circulating sound and reliable newspapers.

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Pittsburgh.

RECKLESS ABUSE OF THE PARDONING POWER.

A case has just been developed in Philadelphia, which shows the utter recklessness with which pardons are granted by the President. ARTHUR MULLEN had been convicted of illicit distilling, and sentenced to pay a fine of eight hundred dollars, or in default to undergo an imprisonment of eight months. This was about four months ago. He refused to pay the fine, and was committed. He at once applied to the President for a pardon. The "clemency" was not extended him as speedily as he expected, and he paid his fine and was released. Judge of his surprise, a day or two ago, on receiving a pardon, setting forth, among other reasons why executive grace was vouchsafed, that "he had been in prison four months, and was already sufficiently punished!" The fact was, he had been but a very short time in prison, and his having complied with the sentence by paying the fine left the President nothing to pardon! With such reckless abuse of the pardoning power, which amounts to offering a premium for fraud and corruption, is it to be wondered at that the revenue is yearly defrauded out of millions of dollars?

BALTIMORE AND PHILADELPHIA.

Our Philadelphia friends are casting jealous eyes towards Baltimore, whose projects for commercial advancement are attracting attention elsewhere, as well as in the "Quaker City." The two great enterprises now in progress among Baltimoreans, is the steamship line to Europe from that port, and the completion of the Connellsville Railroad, by which they will secure to that trade of Pittsburgh, and the *regions west and north of us*, a shorter maritime outlet than that of Philadelphia. A Philadelphia paper, in alluding to this matter, says:

> The completion of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad has been delayed for many years by adverse legislation and legal controversies, but now all these obstacles are swept away, and the enterprise is an ardent desire to reap, at the earliest possible moment, the enormous profits always anticipated from its construction. Her municipal government has combined with her leading commercial men in furnishing the necessary capital. It is evident that no time will be lost in hastening the period when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, made all through the West, that the shortest railway route, east from Pittsburgh to Baltimore, and that it will established line of steamships connects that point with Europe. It is impossible to estimate the extent of the injury, immediate and prospective, that will be inflicted on Philadelphia. The measure of our losses will unfortunately be the measure of the great efforts put forth by the merchants and manufacturers of this city, and it is their obvious duty to be up and doing.

While we have no wish to see the interests of Philadelphia suffer, we cannot but regard with satisfaction the efforts put forth by Baltimore in furtherance of the great projects above mentioned, because we hope to realize incalculable advantages therefrom. With an additional route to the seaboard our merchants may reasonably anticipate such competition in the carrying trade as will inure to their benefit, and relieve them from those business disabilities indirectly imposed by the "adverse legislation" alluded to by our contemporary. It will also give additional importance to Pittsburgh, as a railway center, stimulate her productive energies, open new markets for her products, increase her commission business, and add to her general prosperity in many ways.

CRIMINAL ADVERTISING.

The corrupting and criminal practice of advertising medicines and devices of a certain character, has become so general throughout the country as to call for legislative action. The regular medical practitioners, who have marked the baneful results of the use of these nostrums and devices upon American women, have labored earnestly, as individuals and through their professional organizations and periodicals, to effect a reform, but as yet have accomplished little. The evil has become so thoroughly rooted in society that nothing but severe penal laws will eradicate it. The State of Ohio which keeps in advance of many of the older States in legislative matters, has just passed a law prohibiting under severe penalties the publication of that class of advertisements to which we have alluded. It provides that if the publisher of any newspaper in Ohio shall print any advertisement of any secret drug or nostrum, or any druggist or other person shall keep or sell any drug or nostrum for the exclusive use of females; or shall advertise in any way any drug, instrument or device for preventing conception or producing abortion, either in pamphlet, book, circular or newspaper, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not exceeding six months, or both, at the discretion of the Court. The necessity of such a law in this State is apparent to all, and we suggest that some of our Senators or Representatives bring this matter before the Legislature at its next session. Newspaper publishers and medicine venders, who are corrupting society and entailing misery upon thousands of American women, for the purpose of pocketing a few dollars, should be made to feel the force of some such law as that just enacted in Ohio.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE IN THE SOUTH.

The late elections have fully vindicated the policy of negro suffrage in the rebel States. Neither the white nor black vote was cast all on one side. Taking the representations of the Democratic papers for authority, both were divided—not in the middle, or anywhere near it, perhaps—but some blacks went to the Democrats, and probably more whites went with the Radicals—and the division destroyed whatever ground there was for the clamor there previously had been about the whites being arrayed against the blacks, war of races, etc. The result in every instance has been the adoption of a free Constitution, whereby five States will shortly resume their proper places in the Union, the election of loyal State officers and a large majority of Republicans to Congress. The loyal whites could not have achieved this alone. It was by reinforcing them with the no less loyal blacks that reconstruction has been carried forward almost to completion, and in the interest of the principles of Freedom and Progress, against which the South rebelled. Herein was the necessity, and the result is the complete vindication of the policy of Congress. The negro, armed with the ballot, has done a service of which nobody else was capable. The ballot was given to him as the musket had been—to help put the rebellion down. But for such a necessity, it is to be doubted whether the South would have seen universal suffrage. The previous condition of the blacks naturally suggested grave doubts; but the suggestion of the alternative, that is, the supremacy of the rebels and the reenactment, in a variety of ways, of the slave code, instantly dispelled them. If the blacks were so utterly ignorant, they must have learned rapidly; for the result shows that a vast majority of them have voted like intelligent men. The result proves everything. We have only to reverse the case and consider for a moment how it would have been had not the loyal Southern whites been thus reinforced. The worst element left alive by the war would be in the ascendency in the South. No loyal man would dare to raise his voice there, and all the Southern States would to-day be ruled by men bent on nothing so much as the redemption of the lost cause. All this was foreseen, and the country has abundant reason for expressing its gratitude to Congress for arming the blacks with the ballot, as it armed them with the musket in the dark days of the rebellion. Negro suffrage in the South has worked well.

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State Central Committee.

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THE CHARTIERS VALLEY RAILROAD.

Another Movement Towards its Completion—Prospect of its Success.

The most influential movement yet made towards the completion of the Chartiers Valley Railroad between Pittsburgh and Washington, Pa., has just been commenced in Canonsburg, and judging from the interest manifested at a meeting held on the 18th instant, the prospects are fair for an early completion. It was stated that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company were willing to go on and finish the road in six months, provided the farmers and property owners along the route would subscribe $200,000, no portion of which is to be paid until the road is completed and the cars running. Among the gentlemen who took a prominent part in the proceedings of this meeting were Westley Greer, Craig Ritchie, Major John H. Ewing, Wm. McDaniel, S. M. Bell, Wm. Park, Dr. J. W. Alexander, David Aiken, J. C. McNary, D. C. Houston, Joseph Vaneman and others. Mr. Ritchie stated that within a few weeks past, Mr. Westley Greer had obtained a fair amount of subscriptions from farmers on the line of the road, and that many more persons were anxious to subscribe provided they had assurances that the road would be built in a reasonable time. In order, therefore, that a definite proposition might be obtained from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, a committee, comprising William McKennan, Esq., Mr. Westley Greer, and Mansfield B. Brown, of Allegheny county, was appointed to visit Philadelphia and consult with the managers of the Central road. This committee are now attending to the duty of their appointment, and in a few days the ultimatum of the Pennsylvania road will be known.

A committee of six was appointed by the meeting (three from Washington county and three from Allegheny county,) to proceed with the subscription papers. Committee for Washington county, Maj. John H. Ewing, Alex. McConnell and Westley Greer. Committee for Allegheny county, Mansfield B. Brown, James Murray, with power to appoint a third.

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STATE NEWS.

About two months ago, Mr. S. G. Gray, of Brokenstraw township, took a man from the Warren county Poor House in Youngsville, who has since that time worked faithfully for Mr. Gray, and last Sunday he married Mr. Gray's daughter.

The drug store of Messrs. Shepler & Co., in Mercer, was entered by thieves on the night of the 17th inst., and two hundred dollars worth of articles stolen therefrom.

Capt. Andrew Klause, a soldier of the war of 1812, died in Hamburg on Friday, in the seventy-third year of his age.

Kate Stoner, a resident of Yellow Springs, Blair county, last week forged a check and obtained from the First National Bank of Altoona, seven hundred dollars. The money was subsequently recovered, but the forger was permitted to escape.

The Brookville *Republican* says: During the latter part of last week our lumbermen took advantage of the best freshet of the season. A very large number of rafts were started, and although quite a number were stoved up and broken, many are being safely taken to market. In the absence of any authentic report of the number got safely out, we cannot make a definite statement, but have heard it estimated that as high as six hundred rafts were safely run out of Redbank creek.

Charles Hirt, of Erie, while returning from a ball on Friday morning, fell into the canal and was drowned. A wife and five children are left without support.

The St. Charles Furnace property, in Porter township, Clarion county, was sold at the court house in Clarion on Tuesday, at Sheriff's sale, to James E. Brown, Esq., of Kittanning, purchased it, and has since sold it to a company of gentlemen in Pittsburgh and Allegheny, who intend to put in repair and start the furnace again.

An election for the consolidation of the boroughs of Lebanon and North Lebanon was held on Friday of last week, and resulted in favor of the measure by a majority of 509 out of 667 votes polled.

As an evidence of the spirit of improvement existing in Hamburg, it is stated that fourteen hundred new buildings will be erected in that city this season.

The Berks County Agricultural Society will hold its fall exhibition on the 22d, 23d and 24th of September next.

An ordinance has passed the Town Council of Hamburg, Berks county, extending the present limits of the borough.

Lafayette College, at Easton, has received a donation of $10,000 from Wm. E. Dodge, Esq., of New York.

There is an old lady named Elizabeth Wood, in Philadelphia, who is one hundred and seven years old. She was present at the time Washington crossed the Delaware on that memorable Christmas eve, preceding the battle of Trenton. She is quite intelligent, and retains to a remarkable degree the use of all her faculties.

The lumber business at Williamsport is now quite brisk.

A fellow named Saylon is under arrest in Williamsport charged with having murdered one Augustus Hagerman for one thousand dollars and with the robbery of the Presbyterian church of Newburg of seventy dollars.

The Prothonotary of Schuylkill county on Saturday last entered judgment in the suit of Moses Taylor and Samuel Sloan, trustees, vs. The New York and Schuylkill Coal Company, for $1,068 993 31. It is the largest judgment ever entered in the Court of Common Pleas of Schuylkill county, and one of the largest, perhaps, ever entered in the State of Pennsylvania. The judgment is based by a mortgage which covers over 19,000 acres of the most valuable coal land in Pennsylvania.

Between five and six hundred timber rafts are moored in the Susquehanna at Lock Haven and above, awaiting getting out on Wednesday.

The Reynolds Monument Fund now amounts to $7,386. The committee of the First Army Corps do not feel warranted in commencing the erection of the monument without at least two thousand dollars more.

An officer of the Pennsylvania Railroad says that on Wednesday took place perhaps the largest freight movement in the history of the road. There were 1,392 freight cars (which wheels) passing Millin for the twenty-four hours ending at six P. M., of which 736 were loaded. This number does not include passenger, baggage and express cars, nor cars coming in at Pittsburgh from the West.

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I do not wish to spoil a pretty illusion, but the real truth is that Dixie is an indigenous northern negro refrain, as common to the writer as the lamp-posts in New York city, seventy or seventy-five years ago. It was one of the every-day allusions in all their outdoor speeches, and after a while a number were stoved up and broken, many are being safely taken to market. In the absence of any authentic report of the number got safely out, we cannot make a definite statement, but have heard it estimated that as high as six hundred rafts were safely run out of Redbank creek.

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Major James W. Billman, of Philadelphia, an active and popular liquor store, was attacked by a highwayman near Somerset on Wednesday, but on the presentation of a revolver at the head of his assailant, the latter took to his heels and escaped.

Financial and Business Prospects.

The New York *Financial Bulletin* reviews the monetary situation of the country, which is highly favorable. There is a decided tendency of capital to New York, and money is temporarily scarce at Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and other business centers, caused by large drafts for the transportation of breadstuffs. The western banks have been able to meet all business demands for money, but speculators have to furnish full collateral values. The general business of the country is conservative and wholesome, speculation is neither wild nor excessive, and there are marked indications of a speedy return of general confidence. The disturbing influences of the past few weeks are rapidly passing away, and there is an upward tendency in all kinds of stocks. The eastern flow of currency will be balanced by the transportation of large quantities of grain to the seaboard, and restore ease to the western as well as the eastern markets. The financial and business prospects are accordingly encouraging throughout the entire country.

The Steamship Race.

Notwithstanding the denial of Mr. Cunard that any arrangement whatever had been made for a race between the Cuba, or any other vessel of his line, and the City of Paris, of the Inman line, it is asserted that the race nevertheless did take place. Both vessels sailed from New York on the 18th inst., and the ocean telegraph announced that the City of Paris had passed Cape Clear, the southerly point of the Irish coast, at seven o'clock of the morning of the 27th (Greenwich time,) and that up to half-past nine o'clock the Cuba was not in sight. Assuming that the City of Paris reached Queenstown four hours later, she made the run in eight days, fourteen hours and thirty minutes, which is very quick time. This will probably settle the question of the relative speed of the two vessels.

THE impeachment trial seems to be attracting some attention in England; but much less than might have been reasonably anticipated. The British press are perhaps a little shy of predicting the destruction of our government from any course that may be pursued by parties in this country, after the experience which the past few years has given them. The tone of the London *Gazette*, however, shows that they have not much sympathy with the prosecution. It says, that the American people are growing weary of the trial, and that the movement will not be likely to benefit the Republican party.

A CHICAGO paper, in referring to the statement of the London correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser*, that the widow of Augustus Dickens was now living in London, says: "If this is true, she must have gone to England by telegraph, as she was certainly living in Chicago a few days ago, where she has lived for many years, and where Mr. Dickens's brother died and was buried." The *Advertiser* suggests that there may be some other way to account for this "seeming contradiction." Perhaps *this* Mr. Dickens also had two Mrs. Dickenses.

THE statement is obtaining general circulation that Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman is opposed to impeachment, but there is the best authority for denying it. His well-known aversion to being implicated in political matters has frequently caused him to say that he hoped he would never be obliged to return to Washington except on purely military business, but he carefully avoided any public expression of opinion regarding the merits of the trial.

THE result of the recent elections in the Southern States is summed up as follows: In every one of the original secession States a very large white vote has been cast for radicals; the colored people have refused save in rare cases, to present themselves as candidates for office; not a negro has come forward for Congress; the heavy majorities in all except Arkansas, cast for the Republicans, secure the electoral votes of these five States for General Grant in November.

THE New York Assembly, Monday evening, took up what is known as the Balcolm resolutions, offered in the early part of the session. They request Congress to pass a law taxing United States bonds, and to pay the National debt in greenbacks. The resolutions passed by five majority—the Democrats, with few exceptions, voting for them, and the Republicans against them.

THE editor of the Newark, New Jersey, *Courier*, writing from Washington, says the friends of the President positively count on the votes of Fessenden, Frelinghuysen, Grimes, Fowler, Sprague, Sherman, Henderson, Van Winkle and Ross. But he don't believe there is good ground for counting on more than half of the number.

THE steamer Worcester, of the Baltimore and Ohio steamship line, arrived at Baltimore on Wednesday, with forty-eight passengers, the mails and a full cargo of general merchandise. Her outward cargo was nearly all engaged, besides several first class passengers.

THE Harrisburg *State Guard* says: More Republicans from this State will attend the Republican National Convention at Chicago than ever went from Pennsylvania to a similar body. The masses of the party are determined not to let their representatives sell them out.

THE Boston *Herald* says the headquarters of the Erie Railroad Company have been taken to that city. By this movement it is said certain parties have been circumvented and some legal trap about to be sprung has failed to catch the game.

THE Newark *Courier* asserts that the delegation from New Jersey to Chicago will support Colfax for Vice President as the choice of nine-tenths of the Republicans of the State.

Demolition of the Exhibition Building at Paris.

It is difficult now to conceive that only twelve months ago that opening scene was enacted, and that those endless lines of carriages and pedestrians were wending their way to the now desolate looking region of the Champ de Mars. It is worth while at the present moment just to take a glance at the place by way of contrast: The wreck of the huge main building still stands, looking more picturesque and less ugly, more like a ruined colliseum and less like a rasometor than it ever perhaps did before. There is something even touching in its look of piteous desolation, and in the inevitable reflection which it suggests of the perishableness of all mundane creation. *Sic transit*, indeed, we may say of what was reared at so vast pains and expense, and which, materially speaking, was doomed so soon to pass away. The roofing of the grand gallery is already gone, the cold north wind whistles through the vast apertures of what once were windows. Soon the colossal iron pilasters will be left once more standing in gigantic desolation, the erection of the first of which was once chronicled as an incident and marked as an epoch by all Paris. Every trace of the lighthouse has disappeared; so also has the church; so also the great conservatory of the renowned garden; while every kiosque and pavilion and more fragile structure has been long resolved into dust and rubbish. The workmen are just now employed in tearing up the six or seven miles of culverts, sewerage and ventilation which were, perhaps, though least seen or understood, the most stupendous and remarkable work of the whole; and then the Champ de Mars is expected its readiness to receive tenders for the complete restoration of the Champ de Mars to its original aspect and destination. One was in hopes once to see a fine grand garden, and fountains and kiosques might have been preserved as a public pleasure ground, and as a sight that Vulcan and the useful arts of this age of iron and fire would permanently retain in possession—that mankind had grown wiser, and that the arts of peace had for once supplanted the arts of war on their own territory. Alas! Sadowa has not left us much room for such imitation bill, and the mobilized national guard, have driven away abstract delusion, and shown how far distant the period may yet be when it can be said that men shall make war no more. —*Letter from Paris.*

Austria and the Holy See.

The London *News* says: "The Dominican monks of Retz (Lower Austria) have, as is known, been assailed by the Episcopal press of Vienna for having illuminated on the occasion of the blow lately given by the Chambers to the Concordat. Those friars have replied to clerical journals that in doing so they acted neither through error nor ignorance, as the Vienna papers had said. On the contrary, they were glad to see the Concordat disappearing, because its results had been unfavorable to them. Formerly they lived quietly in their convent, giving to the poor a portion of their superfluity, and harboring and teaching some forty indigent children. When the Concordat came into operation the Austrian clergy, they say, caused them to be placed under the surveillance of Italian Dominicans, the pupils were sent away, and such regulations were introduced, interdicting, among other restrictions, the monks from going alone into the town."

The *Memorial Diplomatique* has the following:

"Our letters from Rome are unanimous in contesting the idea generally spread that the promulgation of the marriage bill by the Emperor of Austria will provoke a rupture of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the Court of Vienna. A communication from a person in the Eternal City, in a position to be well informed, assures us, on the contrary, that the Pope and Cardinal Antonelli make allowances for the situation in which his Apostolical Majesty is placed by the law in question, and while regretting deeply the infringement of the Concordat of 1856, his Holiness and his Secretary of State admit the absolute necessity of giving his sanction to the measure in question. The writer consequently disbelieves the rumor, maintained with persistence, that the Holy See would employ every means to prevent the passing into law of the bill in question. There are even still greater reasons for doubting that Mr. Antonucci Falcinelli has received from Rome instructions ordering him to quit Vienna on the day on which the measure shall receive the Imperial sanction."

THE

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, May 2, 1868.

Weekly Commercial.

ENOCH ARDEN AGAIN.

A Nevada Widow Erects a Tombstone to her Husband, and is visited by Him on the Eve of Second Marriage.

(From the Virginia (Nevada) Enterprise, March 25.

About four years ago Henry Thomas married a young lady—no matter about her name—in the town of V——, C—— county California. About a year after their marriage Thomas concluded it best for both that he should come over the Sierra Nevada mountains and find work in our mines. Leaving his wife in California, he came here and obtained employment in a mine on Gould Hill. For some time all went well, and the wife heard regularly from her husband; then came a long and painful silence. Making inquiries by letter, she learned that a man named Henry Thomas, and answering the description in every respect to her husband, had been killed by a cave-in the very mine he had written her he was working.

She came over the mountains, and was shown the grave of her husband in the cemetery near American Flat. Obtaining employment at the hotel of Mrs. W——ly, in this city, she was soon able to erect a handsome tombstone over the grave of her dear departed, and, enclosing it with a handsome paling, planted rosebushes about the grave. All this passed nearly three years ago, and her time of mourning having expired, she was wooed and won by a man whose acquaintance she had made here in Silverland. The day was fixed for the union of the loving pair, and, during the past week, the widow was at work making the wedding garments. However, "there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip." Day before yesterday came to the hotel of Mrs. W——ly a man whom she at once recognized as the veritable and genuine Henry Thomas, having known him in California, previous to and after the time of his marriage.

At first he denied being the man she has known, but finally admitted the fact upon being posted as to how matters were going on American Flat—the present residence of his wife. He went to see her, and presenting himself to her, asked her if she knew him, when she turned coolly away. He then told her of their travels and related so many circumstances that there was no room to doubt that he who stood before her was really her husband. At last she admitted that she knew him, but told him plainly that she wanted nothing more to do with him. As she had once mourned over his grave, and performed her duty in erecting a tombstone and planting rosebushes thereon, she perhaps thought that ought to suffice for one man, but half a dozen Henry Thomases. Being unable to obtain any further satisfaction, the husband came back to this city, where he is now, undecided what course to pursue. It is pretty clear that the wedding cannot, on account of the present state of the "situation," and it is said that a divorce suit will be the next step taken by the wife or widow, whichever she may be called. But we, less interested, can see troubles in this direction, the lady being very religious and belonging to a church that does not much believe in divorces.

Tenacity of Vegetable Life.

Everywhere, both in the vegetable and animal kingdoms, we find ourselves in our investigations at a loss to arrive at the real essence of vital principle. We witness its workings all around us and in us; and we are conscious of its existence even where there is total inactivity. As a latent life we find it concealed in the germs of plants, waiting for the proper time for its activity; and we have known cases of the great patience and endurance when seeds which had long stored up in tombs and catacombs are restored to suitable condition of soil and atmosphere. Dr. Lindley, the learned botanist, asserts that raspberry seeds, found in Roman tombs, and which numbered at least seventeen hundred years of existence, germinated perfectly, and produced plants which still exist in the Horticultural Society's garden at Chiswick. M. Desmoulins says that seeds of hellebore, lucerne, and cornflower found in some Roman tombs of the second and third centuries after Christ, when they carefully sought and found and fruited; and in England patches of wheat are quite common, said to have been originally derived from seed obtained from Egyptian mummies.

There are instances where the vital principle has endured through ages and ages, excluded, in a great measure, from the natural changes of the atmosphere; but Humboldt says that the seeds of the elder germinated after being twice boiled in making wine, and remaining twenty months in the dregs of the casks and Payne found that the spores of the red parasitical fungus, interior of barrack-bread at Paris, some twenty years ago, did not lose their vitality on being heated to a temperature of even 248 degrees F., but germinated and produced red-mould or fungus.

It is not alone in the seed that we find this remarkable tenacity for life showing itself, but the vital principal possesses the same power of living dormant in the plant, and in spite of great changes of temperature. The Lewisia rediviva of Oregon and California, of the Purslane family, will sprout when dried specimens have been two years or more in a herbal; and Edwards and Colin found that some leguminous and cereal plants would bear hot water or air of temperature of 167 degrees F., and still germinate. Dr. Lyall, of the British Navy, immersed a number of seeds in boiling water to stop its growing propensity before drying it, and yet it showed symptoms of vitality more than a year and a half afterwards and in 1803 it flowered in the Royal Kew Gardens. On the southern face of the Himalayan mountains dicotyledonous plants reach to about 17,500 feet; lindens are found as high up as the snow line of 19,000 feet; and some plants have been known to germinate after being subjected to a dry cold of 70 degrees F., below zero.

This tenacity of life in the vegetable kingdom is sometimes shown in still another way. We see no reason why exogenous trees, or those whose growth is all on the exterior, as oaks, elms, firs, and larches, should not live on or over; for the bark is capable of indefinite extension, and each ring of annual growth soon becomes independent of all that is within, so that the death of the interior does not, so far as we can see, necessitate a diminution of vitality in the circumference; hence as lumbermen know, the most vigorous looking trees are often hollow. But they also know that, in spite of theory, all the different kinds of trees, have a certain average term of existence, and that it is not profitable to let them stand beyond a certain age, for they decrease in their rate of growth or laying up of woody material, and their vitality weakens.

A Japanese Belle.

Every Japanese girl, of no matter what class in society, appears inspired with an innate love of coquetry. The daughter of the humblest tradesman loves to pass whole days in shopping and takes the greatest delight in preparing long before it is needed, the dress she intends to display for the first time at the next *fete*. The day arrived, the happy girl rises early in the morning, and while her fresh new dress lies in one corner of the room, impatiently submits to the dilatory labors of her hair-dresser, in whose profession there are some artists so celebrated that they devote many hours to the study and toil requisite for the composition of some graceful or fashionable style, where the hair, carefully dressed with the brush and pomade, of like a piece of *crepe* exquisitely chased, and fastened by heavy pins of tortoise shell or coral. The *chignon* it must be confessed, is not altogether of Nature's growth, and if, after the fair, we examine the face, we shall see that Madame Rachel herself could not teach the Japanese much in the art of painting up. On the dressing table stand a perfect collection of little boxes just drawn from some hiding place; from one the whites for the neck, arms, face, bust; reds for the mouth and the cheek; black for the eyes; sometimes gold for the lips; and red; with all these aids from art, age is unable to conceal itself except in the case of young ladies, the children are the most laden with paint. Putting aside this coquetry, universal in spite of its bad taste, the dress is very simple and invariably well chosen. A silk robe, generally of a dark hue, covers a *chemise* of crape made of small patches of every color, a perfect harlequin's mantle, where bright green is placed beside a lively red. In Winter the costume is completed by a short padded and thickened according to the season. The dress is long, without, and open from top to bottom; the upper part is confined by a belt broad enough to cover the breast and the lower part of the form, and terminating behind in an enormous knot; to the which with more or less elegance demands a careful examination and many retouches. The sleeves hang like large pockets. To the belt are fastened a purse in a velvet case and a pocketbook containing two chopsticks of silver, if it is intended to do honor to the host who may offer refreshments. In one corner of the pocketbook is placed a small mirror, a European innovation, for our civilization has made this slight breach of Japanese manners. During the greater portion of the year the feet are bare; in Winter they are clad in white cotton, and rest upon sandals of variished wood, kept by wooden supports high enough above the ground to escape the mud and damp. The sandal is ornamented with braids of straw, or sometimes of velvet, and held to the foot by a strip of cloth passed between the toes. Occasionally it is recovered with leather or paper, but is never honored by being worn in the house.

Insect Dyes.

As connected with outward apparel, as well as various other arts of ornament, we are indebted to insects for our most brilliant dyes. Cochineal, which furnishes a splendid scarlet color, and which tinctured vases of wax believed in Europe to be a seed, is now known, by putting a few grains in warm water, to be an insect, a coccus or wingless beetle something resembling in form those commonly found on leaves of grapevines and of the hawthorn. It is a native of China and other parts of Asia, also of South America, where the nopal or prickly pear, on which it feeds, is indigenous. Of the great importance of this insect production as an article of commerce, we may form an idea from the recorded facts that the East India Company offered a reward of £6,000 for its introduction into India, and that some years ago the annual consumption in Great Britain alone was reckoned at 750 bags, worth £375,000.

Another species of coccus found on the evergreen oak in the south of Europe and Asia has furnished from the earliest ages a beautiful crimson dye, supplanted now by the cochineal. It was known to the Phœnicians under the name of tola, to the Greeks under that of coccus, to the Arabians and Persians under that of kermes, or alkermes. A learned writer suggests that this was the dye probably used for the Tabernacle curtains; then serving for awhile to heighten the pagan splendors of Greece and Rome, it retained once more to adorn with the scriptural figures of the Brussels and Flemish tapestries. Lac, (called either stick, seed, or shell lac, according to its state of preparation,) is the secretion of another sort of coccus found on various Indian trees, and is used also as a red dye, but more extensively in varnishes, japan and sealing wax. An African species of coccus is also used as a dye, from whence it has been suggested to try for the same purpose that brilliant little insect, the scarlet-satin mite, so common a frequenter of our gardens in early summer.—*Episodes of Insect Life.*

Mozart's Oxen Waltz.

The sensitive nature of Mozart, that sweetest of all musical composers, is well known. The slightest discord produced to him severe irritation, and when engaged in musical composition, his feelings grew so intense that he almost lost consciousness of all going on around him. A story is told in Whitney's *Musical Guest* which strikingly illustrates this. Mozart was engaged in arranging one of the most beautiful airs in an opera he was composing, when the butcher called for his pay, which had long been due. In vain his wife endeavored to attract the attention of the wrapt artist, who scribbled away utterly unconscious of her presence.

"She ran down stairs, with tears in her eyes, telling the butcher that her husband could not be spoken to, and that he must come another time. But the man of blood was not easily to be daunted—he must have his bill settled, and speak with Mozart himself—and he would not send him another ounce of meat. He ascended the stairs. Mozart, distantly conscious that something had passed in his presence, had continued pouring the effusions of his fantasia on paper when the heavy footsteps resounded in the hall. His stick was at hand. Without turning his eyes from the sheet, he held his stick against the door to keep out the intruders.

"But the steps were approaching. Mozart, more anxious, hurried as fast as he could, when a rap at the door demanded permission to enter. The beautiful creation was in danger of being lost. The affrighted composer cast a fugitive glance at his stick—it was too short. With anxiety bordering on frenzy he looked around his room, and a pole standing behind the curtain caught his eyes; the door was seized, holding it with all his might against the door, writing like fury all the while. The knob was turned, but the pole withstood the first effort. A pause succeeded. Words were heard on the staircase, and the intruders renewed their efforts the second time. But the strength of the composer seemed to increase with his anxiety. Large drops of prespiration stood on his forehead. Stemming the pole against his left breast with the force of despair, he still kept out the visitors. He succeeded but for a moment, yet it was a precious moment—the delightful air was poured upon the paper—it was saved!

"'Mr. Mozart,' said the butcher—

"'Halt! halt!' said the composer; seizing the manuscript, and hurrying toward the pianoforte. Down he sat, and the most delightful tide that ear ever heard rushed from the instrument. The eyes of his wife, and those of the butcher, began to moisten. Mozart finished the tune, rose again, and, running to the writing-desk, he filled out what was wanting.

"'There, Mr. Mozart,' said the butcher, when the artist had finished, 'you know that I am to marry.'

"'No, I do not,' said Mozart, who had somewhat recovered from his musical trance.

"'Well, then, you know now, and you can also know that you owe me money for meat.'

"'I do,' said Mozart, with a sigh.

"'Never mind,' said the man, under whose blood-stained pouch a tender feeling burnt, 'you make me a new waltz for my marriage-ball and I will cancel the debt, and let you have meat for a year to come.'

"'It is a bargain!' cried the lively and gifted Mozart; and down he sat, and a waltz was elicited from the instrument—such a waltz as the butcher had never before heard.

"'Meat for a year, did I say!' exclaimed the enraptured butcher, 'not one hundred—no, not you shall have for this waltz, but I want it with trumpets and horns and fiddles—you know best—and soon, too!'

"'Or you shall have it so,' said Mozart, who could scarcely trust his ears, 'and in one hour you may send for it.'

"The liberal-minded butcher retired. In an hour the waltz was set in full orchestra music. The butcher returned, was delighted with the music, and paid Mozart his one hundred ducats—a sum more splendid than he had ever received from the Emperor for the greatest of his operas.

"It is to this incident that the lovers of harmony are indebted for one of the most charming trifles, the celebrated oxen waltz—a piece of music still unrivalled."

IOWA, though not yet a quarter of a century old, has a population of over one million, and, though not rich, claims to have devised and constructed the most commodious and eligible hospital for the insane of any State in the Union. It is located at Mount Pleasant, Henry county. Its central structure, ninety by sixty feet, is four stories high; the six wings (forming a quadrangle) are three stories; it is built of cut stone laid with hydraulic cement, roof, and eleven miles of iron pipes for water, gas, and heating. It has 425 rooms above the basement, 900 doors, and 1,100 windows. It has cost $600,000, including an Artesian well 2,100 feet deep, which is no longer used, because of the corrosive properties of the water. Dr. R. J. Patterson is the superintendent.—*New York Tribune.*

MEAT of any kind may be preserved in any temperature after it has been soaked for ten minutes in a solution made of the following ingredients, well mixed: One pint of common salt dissolved in four gallons of clear cold water and half a gallon of the bisulphite of calcium solution. This recipe has just been patented in England, and experiments there show that meats so prepared will keep for twelve days in a temperature of from 50 to 110 degrees and preserve their odor and flavor unimpaired. By repeating the process meats may be indefinitely preserved, and if it is desired to keep them for an unusually long time, a little solution of gelatine or white of an egg may be added to the wash.

A PARAGRAPH is going the rounds of the newspapers that Major General Joe Hooker and lady had given a very elegant reception to Admiral Farragut at Rome. This is a mistake. Major General Hooker has been confounded with an eminent banker of that name, resident at Rome, who did give the reception referred to, at his apartment in Bonaparte Palace. Mr. Hooker, the banker, is an American, and once acted as Secretary of Legation at Rome under Minister Rufus King. He has long resided at Rome, in elegant apartments on the second floor of the Bonaparte Palace, furnished with many works of art, such as are spoken of in the paragraph referred to.—*Cincinnati Chronicle.*

THE Cathedral of St. Peter's, in Treves, Prussia, claims to possess the seamless garment of our Savior, for which the soldiers cast lots. It was given to the Cathedral by the Empress Helena. It is exhibited but fourtimes in a century. At the last exhibition of it, in 1844, 1,100,000 pilgrims visited Treves to see it, and numerous miracles of healing are said to have been performed. Next year it will be again exhibited; and, says a Roman Catholic paper, "the sick and infirm will return home whole, the blind will see, the deaf hear, the dumb speak to render thanks to Jesus Christ, and all these marvels will come to pass in the light of day."

THE New York Legislature having on Wednesday passed a stringent bill for the suppression of obscene literature, a Democratic member moved to reconsider on the ground that it was a serious blow at the Democratic press. Mr. Keady, for such is the immortal name of this candid legislator, was aided in his efforts by several of the representatives of the Democratic city of New York who reiterated his statement that to hinder the sale of obscene publications would seriously injure the Democratic press. The motion to reconsider was lost and the bill will become a law. Of course it will be denounced as "another radical outrage."

TEN years ago a young Frenchman, twenty-seven years of age, left France for this country, and took up his residence in New Orleans. He made a fortune, became naturalized, and is at this moment at the head of a large commercial house in that city. On the death of his father he was obliged to make a visit to France for the purpose of settling certain family affairs, and was there arrested as a deserter, having, during his residence in America, been drawn as a conscript. It is not stated whether, at the time of his having been drawn, he was an American citizen or not. The court gave him the light sentence of imprisonment for six days.

THE New York *Sun* proposes to compromise the Jeff. Davis case. Its proposition is this:—We would doom him to ride, at the rate of forty miles an hour, over the whole length of either the Erie or the Long Island Railroad. Whoever can do this and live, must have a charmed life. Certainly no natural laws can preserve a man, at a fair rate of speed, over the defective rails and rotten ties of these roads. Jeff. Davis would, however, Jeff. Davis would prefer to be tried for treason, and take his chance of being hanged, rather than of being mangled and burnt.

SUFFERING IN CAMERON COUNTY, PA.—The The Cameron *Press*, of the 23d inst., has the following startling announcement: "We were yesterday informed that there are about thirty families at the mines in Cameron *literally starving to death!* The works have been closed for several weeks, and the miners have left to look for work, leaving their families entirely destitute and in a starving condition. We trust the citizens of this county will immediately adopt some measure to relieve them, by appointing committees to solicit aid here and elsewhere. The case does not admit of delay."

CURE FOR HOOPING-COUGH.—The late discovery of a cure for hooping-cough, by inhaling the odors of a gas-house, is found to be of real benefit. It has been tried by some Hartford (Ct.) physicians, and it is said with success. The children are taken to the gasworks, where they breathe the not very pleasant air there produced, and there is something in the chemical combination which cures hooping-cough. The people at the gas-works state that during the last twelve months three hundred cases of hooping-cough have been thus experimented upon.

Great Auction Sale of Carriages, Buggies, &c.

By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that Smithson, Vanhook & McClelland will sell at auction on Wednesday, May 6, at Shaffer's Carriage Bazaar, Diamond alley, near Liberty street, an immense assortment of Coaches, Carriages, Barouches, Buggies and light vehicles of every description. These vehicles were made by the most celebrated manufacturers in the United States, and will be found of good material, perfectly sound and durable. Every vehicle will be sold *without reserve*. It is a rare chance, and will no doubt be attended by a large number of persons.

Burnett's Standard

Cooking Extracts are carefully prepared from fruits and spices of the best quality, differing essentially from all others. WSA".

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 30.

The market to-day is without material change. Money is accumulating in the banks, as well as in the hands of private individuals, and there is a large unemployed balance inviting investment. Good commercial paper is more scant than money, hence discounting is very limited. The market has for some time shown a steady increase of ease, and there should be no trouble on the part of borrowers in getting all accommodations asked for. Business is moderately active.

In New York, the money market is becoming easier, and offerings are freely made to Government dealers at six per cent. on call, and seven per cent. on stocks and bank loans.

The balances of the banks are daily increasing, and loans are made with less caution than heretofore.

—Gold is firm. The fluctuations to-day were as follows: 10, 139¼; 10-55, 139¼; 11-30, 139¼; 12-20, 139⅜; 1-50, 139⅛; 3, 139¼.

—Sterling exchange steady and unchanged.

—The New York stock market was active and buoyant throughout the day, although prices at the close were a little off from the highest figures. The market for governments has ruled strong during the day and closed firm. The best houses will not accept commissions for business except their clients take the whole risk. Yet a large number of the stocks which have not been watered, and have some positive value, are dealt in liberally, and in consequence of the ease in the money market there appears a general expectation that stocks will go higher.

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Evening
1881's 6s	113	113⅛	113⅛
1862 5-20s	112	112	112
1864 5-20s	110⅜	110⅝	110⅜
1865 5-20s, old	110⅜	110⅝	110⅜
1865 5-20s, new	108⅜	108⅝	108⅜
1867 do	109½	109⅝	109⅝
7-30s	103⅛	103⅜	103⅜
10-40s	102⅝	102⅞	102⅞
Gold	139¼	139¼	139¼

Messrs. James T. Brady & Co., bankers, corner of Fourth and Wood streets, furnish the following quotations for gold and govern ment securities:

Gold, 139½; U. S. 6s, 1881, 113¾; U. S. 5-20s, 1862, 112; do 1864, 110¾; do 1865, 110¾; U. S. 10-40s, 102¾; U. S. 5-20s, January and July, 1865, 108¾; do 1867, 109¼; June 7-30s, 107⅜; July do, 107⅜; May Compounds, 1865, 113¾.

—The railway market on the New York Stock Exchange was strong and active. Rock Island broke to-day to 93½, and the complications are such that the bears have the advantage. No dividends can be declared without a compromise in two years; and the attitude of the hostile parties is such that little hope of an arrangement is entertained. The entire list closed on a slight decline on yesterday's advance.

The following table, reported by J. W. Kennedy, broker, shows the comparative range of prices for a week past:

	April 23	24	25	27	28	29
Fort Wayne	102¾	102¾	102¾	104¾	104	103¾
Cleveland	93	93⅝	93⅛	93	93	93
N. York Central	123⅝	123⅝	123	126	125	127⅛
Reading	90⅝	90⅝	90⅝	91¼	90⅝	89⅝
Michigan South	89¾	89	89⅝	90⅝	89⅝	89⅝
Northwestern	70	70	70	72	71	71
Do preferred	75¾	75¾	75	78⅝	77⅝	77⅝
Rock Island	92¾	92¾	92¾	93¾	93¾	93¾

—The compound interest notes maturing and payable after the 1st of May, 1868, obtained from official sources are as follows: Maturing May 15th, 1868, $25,927; August 1st, $12,508,130; September 1st, $8,127,290; September 15th, $1,181,920; October 1st, $975,380; October 16th, $8,300,750. Total, $46,010,550 matured; on which interest has ceased $5,393,030, leaving the total amount of compound interest notes outstanding $51,403,580.

—The Union Pacific Railway Company has just published its report for the eight months ending December last. The following is an extract:

"The supposed great difficulties in the way of building the Pacific Railroad have diminished as they have been encountered. Contracts for the construction of 914 miles west from Omaha, comprising much of the most difficult mountain labor, have been let to responsible parties, who have already finished 540 miles, at the average rate of $68,058 per mile. This price includes all necessary car shops, depots, stations and other ordinary buildings, and also locomotives, passenger, baggage and freight cars, and other requisite rolling stock, to an amount that shall be not less than $2,000 per mile. Adding the cost of the remaining 186 of the 1,100 miles assumed to be built by the Union Pacific Company to be $90,000 per mile, the total cost of 1,100 miles and equipment will be $75,012, leaving 914 miles (at $68,058), $62,305,012, and 186 miles (at $90,000), $16,740,000; to which add $5,500,600 on interest and miscellaneous expenses, making a total of $84,545,612. The available cash resources for building the 914 miles are $29,328,000 of first mortgage bonds, $8,950,000 of capital stock paid in on the work now done and 14,080,000 acres of land grant."

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF PETROLEUM COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, April 30, 1868. }

BUSINESS—The oil market yesterday was full of life and activity. Buyers were plenty and disposed to take hold. The sales of crude and refined are the largest we have reported for some days. Eastern dispatches furnish the following figures: Philadelphia—P L's to white, 20@20½; S white, 20½; crude, including packages, 17c. New York—Market firm; P L's to white, 20½; S white, 21c; bulk, 17c. Oil City dispatches report the market firm at the month at $2.06@3.60, and on the creek at $2.30 ₱ barrel.

REFINED OIL—The market was very firm. Prices advanced from ¼ to ½c within all leading brands or actions. We note the following: 500 barrels standard white, May delivery, Philadelphia, 27½c; 500 barrels do, June, 27¾c; 1,000 barrels, 1,000 June and 500 July, at 28c; sales of a line of 1,000 bbls., 1,500 barrels August, 1,500 barrels September, 1,500 barrels October and 1,500 November, at 30c ₱ gallon; sales of 500 barrels, buyers' option, all year, 32c; sales of 5000 barrels, extending from July to December, 500 barrels each month, at 29½c ₱ gallon; total sales 12,500 barrels, market closing firm.

CRUDE OIL—The market was very firm but prices were unchanged. We are reported sales of 15,300 barrels as follows: Sales 1,000 and 800 barrels of bulk, on the spot, at 10c; sales of 2,000 barrels bulk, in 1,000 barrel lots, May, at 10c; sales 2,000 barrels do June, at buyer's option; sales 6,500 barrels bulk, first water.

CONTRACTS—We note the following contracts: Sales 3,000 barrels bulk at any time previous to October 1st, buyer's option, at $1 ₱ barrel in bulk at Oil City, the purchaser paying $1 ₱ barrel down in order to secure contract.

PETROLEUM MARKETS.

PHILADELPHIA.

During the past week, according to the report of the *Price Current*, there has been a decided improvement in the market for both crude and refined, and under an increased demand from the 'shorts,'" who are anxious to close contracts before the end of the month. The advance on crude is 1@1½c ₱ gallon. The sales comprise 3,500 bbls crude at 16 9-16@16 cents early in the week, and 2,000 bbls at 17½@17¾ at the latter rate; 1,000 bbls do, deliverable first half of May, at 16½ cents; 1,000 bbls do, do, at 17@17½; 12 cents; 5,000 bbls refined S W on the spot at 25½@25¾ cents, early in the week, and since at 27½@27¾ 26 cents; closing at 26 cents; 3,000 bbls do do for the balance of the month at 25½@26 cents, b o; 2,000 bbls W W for June at 28½ cents, b o; 1,000 bbls do for May at 26½ cents, b o; 1,500 bbls do do at 27c, b o; 1,500 bbls do do on private terms; 1,000 bbls do for June at 26½ cents, b o; 1,500 bbls do do at 27 cents, buyer's option; 1,000 bbls do for July at 27½ cents, b o; do do, last half of month at 28 cents, b o; 1,000 bbls do for August at 28½ cents, b o; 1,000 bbls August to September at 29 cents, b o; and 1,000 bbls do at 29½ cents—closing to-day at 26@26½ cents for S W for April; 26½ cents for 27@27½ cents for W W; 28 cents for July; 28½ cents for August, and 29 cents for September. Naphtha is quiet and steady at 20½@21 cents. Lubricating oils are in better demand. Sales of Mount Farm at 36 cents; Volcanic at 30@33 cents; Lewis at 30@33 cents; Shade and Longmoor at 25@35 cents.

The receipts during the week were 5,600 bbls crude and 6,120 bbls refined, and the exports 20,000 gallons benzine, and 719,318 gallons refined. Total export since January 1, 1868, 7,480,109 gallons, against 5,-038,971 gallons same time in 1867. There are now loading for foreign ports thirty vessels with petroleum.

NEW YORK.

The market for crude has ruled dull, and, says the *Shipping List*, prices are a shade lower. We quote at the close 12¾c in bulk, and 16c in shipping order. Sales 2,000 bbls in bulk at 12¾@12¾c. Refined in bond is in demand, but holders are asking advanced their prices, transactions have been restricted. We quote standard W W delivered in bond at 27½@28c; free bbls S W at 26½@26¾c; 2,000 do, 27½c, S O, twenty days; 300 do, in bond, 28c; 1,500 do, 27½c, May; 2,000 do, W W, May, in bulk, and 4,000 do, June, on private terms; and 2,000 do, August to December, 500 each month, at 29½c. Prices in fair demand, with sales of 800 bbls, S W, at 33½c.

Receipts since January 1st—

1868	bbls 223,134	1867	bbls. 301,062
Export since 1st January—	1868		1867.
From New York	gallons 12,302,522		8,070,667
From other ports	" 7,541,586		5,901,388
Total	gallons 20,124,058		13,960,988
Same time, 1866		gallons 14,026,359	
Same time, 1865		" 2,000,000	

There are now loading with petroleum for Europe eighteen vessels.

Petroleum at Titusville, Pa.

The *Herald* of Wednesday reports a little stronger feeling in the market, and with a fair amount of activity, prices again appreciated a shade. At Petroleum Centre offers were made at $3 10 without finding sellers, and afterward sales were made at $3 12½. At points north of Petroleum Centre the market opened with buyers offering $2 70 and $2 75 and sellers asking $3. Toward noon higher prices were offered, but no sales occurred at $3. The following were the sales made deliverable: 1,000 bbls at Petroleum Centre for the Pittsburgh market on private terms; six car loads at Pioneer for the New York market, at $3; five car loads at Miller for the New York market at $3; 2,000 bbls at Petroleum Centre for the Pittsburgh market, from the Wood's Farm, on private terms; six car loads at Miller for the Boston market at $3; six car loads at Pioneer from the stewart wells for the New York market at $3; and Lyon & Upton's Cherry Run the production has been purchased entirely, and sellers are asking $2 85 and $2 90 at the wells. Within the past two weeks, from 60 to 425 car loads have been purchased at different villages; car loads have been offered on the cars at points north of Petroleum Centre. During the same time, the drainage from the Bull point have refused about 24,000 barrels, or 250 car loads, leaving to be shipped from 112 to 137 car loads. This amount which is awaiting shipment is divided among the narrow and broad gauge shipping.

At Oil City there has been but little change since Saturday, and we continue to quote at $3 @$3 50 on the creek, and $3 @$3 30 on the river. Sales of 2,000 bbls are reported, terms not stated. We quote:

Crude at Pioneer delivered on the cars, 40	$ 3 00
Crude at Titusville delivered on the cars,	$ 3 00
Crude at Petroleum Center delivered on	$ 3 00
Crude at Miller delivered, ₱ bbl or ₱ gr	$ 3 00

Among the sales of Tuesday last, between Titusville and the Hyde and Egbert Farm, were those of 4,800 bbls. Pittsburgh took 3,000 bbls.

Early Wheat.

At the New York Produce Exchange there was exhibited a few days ago, a number of stalks of winter wheat, grown in Georgia, which are already headed. Judging from these specimens, a portion of the crop will be ready for harvesting in about two weeks.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 29, 1868. }

Trade during the week has been quiet, but prices continue without material change. The receipts of flour during the week were large, but since our last have fallen off to 245 barrels. The demand was more than sufficient to carry off all the receipts, and to-day stocks were very light, and prices tending upward. The receipts of other articles of produce were so light that they are not worth reporting.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale store prices, unless otherwise noted:

ASHES—There is a moderate inquiry with sales from store at 11c for pearls, and 9c for soda ash.

BEANS—Supply next to nothing, and choice small white would readily command $3 ₱ bush.

BUTTER—The receipts have been more liberal, and promise in a short time to be so extensive as to bring prices down to a living fair figure. Prices have dropped within the past 10 days fully 8c ₱ lb, and today we quote the inquiry only moderate at 40@45c ₱ lb for prime to choice roll. An inferior article is nominal, and hardly saleable.

EGGS—Prices to-day were firm at 23c ₱ dozen. The demand is better than the receipts.

BACON, LARD, ETC.—For some time past there has been a very strong market for all articles of the hog crop, and prices have gradually gone up. The market still continues active, with a large demand. We quote sugar cured hams at 19½@20c; canvassed do 20½@21c; shoulders 14½@14½c; rib sides 16½c; clear sides 18½c; dried beef 23@24c, and lard 19c ₱ lb.

MESS PORK—We quote the market active at $28 50 ₱ bbl.

LARD OIL—Prices are higher owing to the advance in lard, and we quote at $1 45@1 50 ₱ gallon for extra No. 1, and $1 20@1 25 for No. 2.

Groceries.

Groceries of all descriptions are in very fair demand. Refined sugars are ½c higher than our last quotations, and firm at prices quoted. Syrups are advanced from 5 to 10c ₱ gall. White fish and Lake Herring have advanced 50c ₱ half bbl, and continue very firm at quotations. Coffees are advancing, with the rise in gold.

COFFEE—Old Government Java, in bags, 37c; in mats, 36c; Laguayra, 26@27c; Rio, choice 27c; prime, 26c; good, 23c.

SUGARS—Porto Rico, 13¾@14¾c; Cuba, 12¾@13¾c; Sugar House, 11¾@12½c; Granulated, 18c; Powdered, 16c; Crushed, 16c; A Coffee, 17c; B do, 16½c; extra C, 16¼c; C 15¾c; New Orleans 14¾@16c; Demerara 15¾@16c; Clarified, 13½@14½c.

MOLASSES—New Orleans, 90c@$1; Porto Rico, 70@80c; Cuba, 60@70c; Demerara, 85c.

SYRUP—Lovering's, $1 00; other choice brands, $1 00 to $1 10; fair to good, 70@85c; golden drips, $1 05.

TEAS—Young Hyson, common to finest, 90c@$1 80; Imperial and Gunpowder, do, $1 20@2 00; Japan, 90c@$1 25; Oolong, 90c@$1 75.

RICE—Carolina, 9½c; Rangoon, 11½@12c.

VINEGAR—We quote white wine vinegar, in original packages, 75c. Pittsburgh manufactured cider vinegar is quoted at 12½@15c at the works, and in wholesale lots from store at 18@20c ₱ gallon.

FISH—No. 1 Shore Mackerel, $23; No. 2 Shore $18 00; No. 1 Bay do, $22; No. 3 large do, $14 50; Lake Herring, $4 50; White Fish, $8 00. Codfish, 6½c ₱ lb.

SODA—English Bicarb 9c; American 8c.

SPICES—Pimento, 12c; Pepper, 38c; Cloves, 50c; Nutmegs, $1 50; Cassia, 80@85c.

SOAP—McKeon, Van Haagen & Co.'s Chemical Olive, 10c; Babbitt's, 12½c; Oakley's, 13c.

CANDLES—Star, 20@25c.

CANDLES—Proctor & Gamble's star candles, 26c for full weight; moulded candles, 23 lb, 16c.

INDIGO—Madras 90c@$1 50; Manila 95c@$1 45.

RAW LEAD—12½c.

DROP SHOT—$9 50.

STARCH—Madison 8c; Silver Gloss 12½c; Corn Starch 13½c.

FRUITS—Green apples of a choice quality are scarce, and the best command $6 @$6 50 ₱ bbl. The demand is good. Dried peaches are inquired for at 12c ₱ lb. Dried apples are dull at 7c ₱ lb.

POTATOES—Buckeyes sold from store at $1 25@1 50 ₱ bbl, and peachblows $1 @$1 10.

CHEESE—There is a fair demand for mild rich cheese. We quote Western Reserve at 18@19c; factory at 17c, and Goshen at 18c ₱ lb.

HAY—The receipts have been made at $25@26 ₱ ton, and at the city sales loose timothy hay sold at $24 00@30 00 ₱ ton.

CRANBERRIES—Choice cultivated brought $16 00@18 00 ₱ bbl.

CORN MEAL—We quote only a moderate inquiry at $1 10@1 15 ₱ bush.

GRAIN—Prices since our last have not undergone any change. The receipts are very large, limited, shelled corn is scarce and in demand from $1 05@1 10 at $1 05@1 10, with some small lots from store at a much higher figure. Oats are weaker—selling from first hands at 72@75 cents, and store at 75@80 ₱ bushel. Rye is scarce and wanted at $1 85@1 90 ₱ bushel. Barley is scarce and nominal at $2 25 ₱ bushel. There is no wheat coming in except that brought in the Weekly bullets. Prices would be ready sales reflected at the mills at $2 60@2 80 for No. 1 spring; red winter $2 65@2 70, and white wheat $2 70@2 75 ₱ bush.

SALT—Small lots selling lots at 82½ bbl.

FLOUR—The market continues active and excited. Sales to-day were very large. The receipts for the past few days have been heavy, but the demand has been sufficient to carry off all the surplus, and in some of our warehouses there was no stock left over to-day. Merchants had to a great extent soldahead. We see by private dispatches from Chicago this afternoon that the speculation of spring were held 25c higher, owing to a better feeling in the market. The demand here is much greater than our dealers anticipated. The advance at Chicago to-day has not changed the price in this market as yet, but holders are more firm. We quote the range of prices for the well known brands: Dayton Snow Flake (white winter) $13 00; Jenkins's Lilly Mills $12 00. White wheat family grades, $12 @$12 50; Crossett $11 75; Emerald $11 50; medium brands $10 @$11 00. Rye flour $8 50 @ 9 bbl.

PITTSBURGH DRY GOODS MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, May 2, 1868. }

Dry Goods seem firm, and to-day buyers are purchasing freely, and as the recent brief concession of 10 @ 15 per cent. from the prices of all kinds of sheeting has been succeeded by a corresponding advance, prices appear well established.

The sales during the past two days of the week but yesterday and to-day our lobby are very large.

The report of the cotton supply in Liverpool shows a very small stock, and although it is asserted that the existing high price of cotton is mainly due to the efforts of speculators holding for a rise, it must be conceded that the present price will be sustained for some time.

We write with special reference to the jobbing trade in this market, and are of the opinion that the early buyers have fallen off a little, with sales 350 tons Glenarnock, from yard, part if not all at $40 66@41; 50 do Summerlee, to arrive, $41; 50 do, Eglinton, here, $39; 300 do Clyde, $40; and 100 do Carbisherrie, both to arrive on terms not made public.

American pig iron is in limited demand, but prices are pretty generally asked—$39 for the best No. 1, and lower rates for secondary brands, sales 200 tons No 1 Gartsherrie, at $40; 100 do Summerlee, on terms not transpired. Of other kinds, we notice 800 tons new Carbon Hall, on private terms; old Hall, terms we did not learn. Bar from store, is hardly so active, and prices are well maintained.

PHILADELPHIA.

Pig metal is in limited demand; and the supply is light. Sales of 400 tons No. 1 Anthracite at $38@39; 250 tons No. 2 at $36@37; and 100 tons Forge at $34@36. A sale of 600 tons Lebanon White Iron at $29 on the furnace banks, and 150 tons do Forge, here, at $34. Manufactured iron is higher at former rates; in Scotch pig there is nothing doing. Blooms are inactive. Nails are selling at previous quotations.

CLASS MARKET.

OFFICE OF PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, May 2, 1868

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1868.

TERMS:

One copy, per year, $2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year, 1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

THE CENTRAL RAILWAY SYSTEM.

It is no longer attempted to be disguised we believe, that the Pennsylvania Central Railway Company have so far perfected their enterprises westward from Pittsburgh, that they are prepared to act quite independent of its great portion, and former ally, the Fort Wayne Road. Although it has not been unknown to individuals that the Central has for years been laying its plans, not only to be independent of the Fort Wayne, but, if necessary, to pursue an aggressive policy towards it, this fact has but recently been proclaimed to the general public. This proclamation is to be found in various places, but especially in an article in the Cincinnati *Gazette*, the writer of which unquestionably understands not only the facts but the force of the language employed to convey them to the public eye. We quote from it as follows:

"A few years ago it was thought a great financial blunder, when the Pennsylvania Central disposed of the monied interest in the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad.

"Now, however, the shrewdness of this sale is apparent. The Fort Wayne Road was a completed enterprise, furnishing the desired connection direct with Chicago, and must be run, by whomsoever owned, in the direct interest of the Central road.

"The true, proper capital withdrawn from the Fort Wayne, which now *de facto* is a part of the general system, enable the owners of the Central Road to put forward their other connections, not yet secured, south of the line of the Fort Wayne Road.

"The results of these efforts present the strongest possible combinations through Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to the Mississippi. A study of this stupendous system is interesting and profitable.

"Taking Pittsburgh as the objective point, an unbroken and unbroken and direct line is opened to Chicago by way of the Fort Wayne Railroad, to Cincinnati by the Pittsburgh, Columbus and Cincinnati line, and to Indianapolis by the Columbus and Indiana Central.

"Diverging from their main line at Piqua, another one extends through Union to Logansport, and thence westward, under the control also of the Columbus and Indianapolis Central, via the Logansport and Peoria roads, to Burlington on the Mississippi.

"From Indianapolis west, the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Road, and the Terre Haute and Terre Haute to St. Louis, now being rapidly pushed to completion, are owned and controlled by essentially the same interests. Also the new and important line from Indianapolis southwestwardly to Danville, Illinois, and on to Bloomington and Peoria, has passed into the control of the same great consolidation.

"It will thus be seen that from Pittsburgh as a center, this system reaches in every large, commercial point in the West. The magnitude of interests involved in so gigantic a scheme for rapidly developing West can not be even faintly realized."

What the writer says of Pittsburgh as the centre of a railway system "to every important commercial point in the West," is entirely true, although as yet we here enjoy but few of the advantages of railway competition, either East or West. By withdrawing from the Fort Wayne, the Pennsylvania Central made itself "master of the situation," not only as to itself, but for the time being, at least, in regard to the Fort Wayne also. Dependent as the Fort Wayne is for its eastern connection on the Central, although it has the greatest provocation in being thus run round, it can not afford to cultivate antagonism touching the Western trade; so that, while Pittsburgh is really the centre of a system of railways reaching to every point in the West, there is no competition for her either East or West.

When the Fort Wayne shall have secured what she ought to have had long ago, a route to tide water independent of the Pennsylvania Central, she will be in position to do her own business in her own way, and afford Pittsburgh the benefits of wholesome competition. That there should have been on the part of the Fort Wayne, such apparent indifference to what nearly everyone saw must come, and what has come, has been and always will be a marvel. The battle which, if it does not intend to sink into insignificance, it must now fight, might have been won with a comparatively small effort, But the circumstances are favorable. The restoration of the Connellsville opens the way to the Fort Wayne to tidewater on the Chesapeake, and it is precisely for this fact that the restoration was resisted inch-by-inch by the Pennsylvania Central. On the other hand, the Allegheny Valley Road—an enterprise which has manifested such a degree of vitality and ability that it is safe to predict the highest achievements in regard to it—opens another route to Philadelphia and New York. Now here are two roads, both in an advanced condition, whereby the Fort Wayne, by merely stretching forth its hands, can secure its future against any possible contingency; and all who take an interest in the great Railway Lines of the country are observing attentively the movements of the Fort Wayne in this interesting juncture. So far as we know, nobody dreams that it is possible that the present double opportunity will not be improved.

FRADULENT NATURALIZATION PAPERS.

The fact having been clearly demonstrated that the election in this State, last fall, for Supreme Judge, was carried by the unlimited issue of fraudulent naturalization papers, either under the immediate direction of the Democratic State Committee, or that of its paid agents, the question arises, what shall be done to prevent such corrupt and villainous practices in the future? A Philadelphia contemporary suggests that it is the bounden duty of the Republican party, now that they have the proof on record, to prosecute the offenders, high and low, to the utmost extent of the law. This cannot be done, all over the State, but it can be accomplished in those districts where the courts are so composed as to guarantee impartial justice and the enforcement of the laws. The facts show that all the fraudulent papers were issued from Philadelphia, where the Democratic State Committee had its headquarters. The Attorney General, and the District Attorney of the county, are earnestly urged to enter criminal prosecutions, and bring the offenders, whoever they may be, to justice. Something must be done to beget a wholesome dread of forgery in the minds of future Democratic committees. This action is the more urgent, since there can be no longer any doubt that the use of fraudulent naturalization papers has become general and systematic throughout the country. Two thousand of these papers were issued at the recent elections in Chicago, to be filled up and used by such men as could be hired for the purpose, and it was by the employment of such means that the elections in Connecticut were carried. The members of the Republican party, and especially the law officers of the Commonwealth, have a duty to perform in regard to this matter which they cannot safely postpone or neglect. If such wholesale frauds, bribery and perjury are suffered to go unpunished now, they will be multiplied next fall to an alarming extent, and we may give up all hope of getting a fair and honest expression of public opinion through the ballot box.

THE SAME OLD CRY.

The outcry raised against Congress and the Republican party, bears a striking resemblance to that which was heard throughout the war. This is perfectly natural, for it proceeds from the same source. The same party orators and papers which croaked over our defeats, did all they could to prevent enlistments and embarrass drafting, stand in the foreground now with uttering prophecies of ruin, and doing their utmost to divide those who, having fought the rebellion down, are charged with the responsibility of securing the fruits of the victory. Men have short memories who cannot recollect the agonizing appeals made to the country against Congress and the party while the war was raging—ending with the declaration at Chicago, that the war was a failure, and the demand for the recognition of the Southern independence. The man whose voice was loudest then was Mr. PENDLETON; it is perfectly natural, therefore, that he should be the favorite of those who to-day raise the outcry against Congress and the Republican party. Had not the virtue and patriotism of the people led them to disregard the appeals and croakings of these leaders, the war would have failed and Southern independence been secured; and if their appeals are not disregarded now, the fruits of the victory will be lost.

No man need be told that they who sympathized with the rebels will, if they have the opportunity, not reconstruct the rebel States in the interest of Freedom and Humanity. The PENDLETONS *and* SEYMOURS *would prove as unsafe reconstructionists as they would have been leaders of the cause of the Government when the armies were in the field. They have the same general objects and motives now that they had then, and they are not a particle less trustworthy now than they were when, by stimulating the people to dissatisfaction and riot, they were rendering substantial service to the rebel armies.*

Familiar voices are these which are raised now against Congress and the Republican party. It would be impeaching the intelligence and distrusting the fidelity of the people to suppose that they can be led off to join the cause whose success would be rejoiced over by none so much as they who were most conspicuous in the wicked attempt to destroy the Republic.

THE DEMOCRATS AND THE PRESIDENCY.

General HALPINE (MILES O'REILLY) in his paper, the New York *Citizen*, reads the Democratic party a vigorous lecture on what they should do about the Presidency. He tells them plainly that if they permit the outrageous leadership of which BRICK POMEROY's paper is the organ, to go much farther, decent men will leave the party. Already, he says, the party is in an "awkward position," composed as it is of conflicting and antagonistic interests, "consistency with the stupidities of the last six years," says the *Citizen*, "insure utter ruin." The article in this respect is so outspoken that we quote the following for the benefit of our Democratic friends:

"The organization happens to be composed of conflicting and antagonistic elements; a large portion of it consists of actual, positive, unconverted and undeniable peace men, submissionists, worshippers of chivalry, admirers of the South, and flunkies at its feet; men who would rather be kicked by a Southern man than kissed by a Northern woman. These brave and gentle bully for their representative, their worthy exemplar, George H. Pendleton; will have him and no one else, and actually despise and repudiate Governor Seymour as too much of a war man. They are resolute and vindictive. They have secured the party machinery to their favorites, and care given him a long start in advance of all other candidates.

The *Citizen* thinks HANCOCK is the man to nominate, for there are thousands of Democrats who will vote for no other candidate against GRANT. As for PENDLETON, the following rather emphatic language is employed:

"We say distinctly, positively, and unchangeably as the law of the Medes and Persians, that never will those for whom we speak, help directly or indirectly, by action or inaction, by silence or otherwise, the election of the utter copperhead and half-breed New York Governor of 1864-5-6-7. Until water runs up hill, until trees grow with roots underground and branches above, until the moon gives heat and the sun loses its fire, until beasts become men and angels brutes, until hell is shut up therein and fire shall freeze, until everything that is impossible becomes possible, and not then, will War Democrats vote for the man who was false to his country but to his section, who was conspicuously and only as a leading example of possible Northern meanness, and who, by his indirect support to their policy, blew out the life and hopes of more than a thousand times, would they see the loyal soldiers and moderate Republicans, General Grant, in the Presidential chair, a person who, if not agreeing with them in all their views, is much more nearly their representative than a copperhead whose prudence kept him from being a traitor."

This doubtless expresses the sentiment of no inconsiderable portion of the Democrats. Nevertheless, as the *Citizen* admits, PENDLETON is ahead and stands the best chance of getting the nomination. Affairs in the party now have a marked resemblance to the situation prior to and at the time of the nomination four years ago. The "peace traitors" got the upper hand and ruled the Convention. But Democrats were everywhere who at once repudiated the candidate and the platform, and prepared so to act as to do the least possible harm to the cause of the Government, which was then in a critical situation. They preferred "a moderate Republican" like Mr. LINCOLN to a candidate standing on a platform declaring that the war was a "failure." And the *Citizen* simply utters what every observing man knows to be true, to wit: that with PENDLETON or any other candidate "whose prudence kept him from being a traitor," there will be a general movement by war Democrats in favor of GRANT.

INTERNAL COMMERCE AND RAILWAY COMPETITION.

The termination of the great VANDERBILT and Drew war has been evidently in the interest of the people. Its origin was an attempt on the part of the former to gain the control of the Erie Road for the purpose of so combining the great avenues from New York to the Lakes and the West that the traffic and travel would be helplessly in the power of a great monopoly. Early in the fray, the New York Chamber of Commerce showed their appreciation of the position by passing the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the general prosperity of this community is largely dependent upon the harmony of various divergent railroads which have their common terminus in this city, being specially the case in the Columbus and Indianapolis Central, via the Logansport and Peoria roads, to Burlington on the Mississippi.

"From Indianapolis west, the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Road, and the Terre Haute and Terre Haute to St. Louis, now being rapidly pushed to completion, are owned and controlled by essentially the same interests. Also the new and important line from Indianapolis southwestwardly to Danville, Illinois, and on to Bloomington and Peoria, has passed into the control of the same great consolidation.

"It will thus be seen that from Pittsburgh as a center, this system reaches